CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 18 - The Church Rises To Its Height of Power, AD 1198-1216

1. *Another Emperor Humbles Himself*
    a. *The Church rose to heights of power under Pope Alexander III who had a bitter conflict with emperor Frederick Barbarossa (great grandson of Henry IV) but in 1177 the emperor came into the pope at the porch of the Cathedral of St. Mark in Venice, spread his cloak upon the pavement, kneeled, and kissed the pope's foot*

2. *Innocent III*
    a. *Pope Innocent had a most exalted idea of the papacy. In two letters he said: "The Lord gave Peter the rule not only over the universal Church, but also the rule over the whole world," and "No king can rule rightly unless he devoutly serves Christ's vicar."*
3. *Innocent's Rise to Power*
    a. *There were five factors that helped Innocent to realize so nearly the papal ideal namely:*
    b. *the example of Gregory VII - he left his mighty example behind as an incentive to following popes*
    c. *the "Donation of Constantine," furnished a strong legal basis for his claims of papal power*
    d. *the Crusades - a manifestation of the unity of Christian Europe against the Muslims*
    e. *the principle of ratione peccati - popes claimed that if temporal rulers engaged in political actions which were morally wrong, the popes had not only the right but also the duty to interfere and call these temporal rulers to account*
    f. *and favorable political circumstances in the Europe of his day -*
4. *The Papacy Reaches Its Greatest Height*
    a. *proclaiming to the world that he would tolerate no opposition from temporal powers*
    b. *John Lackland, king of England, dared to oppose Innocent. In 1208 the pope placed England under an interdict. That meant that in all England no church service could be held. The next year King John was excommunicated. His subjects were no longer required to obey him. He was deprived of his throne.*
    c. *The majority of the princes of Christendom became vassals of the Church. Thus it was that during the rule of Innocent III, from 1198 to 1216, the Church rose to its greatest height of temporal power.*
5. *The Lateran Council*
    a. *Pope Innocent III held in 1215 an ecumenical council in the Lateran Church in Rome and declared: "Two things I have especially at heart, the re-conquest of the Holy Land, and the reform of the Church universal."*
    b. *the Council determined on a new crusade; The Waldensian and Albigensian heresies were condemned. Punishment of all unrepentant heretics prescribed; decreed granting of indulgences be restricted; Bishops instructed to appoint competent men to preach and to provide free instruction in grammar and theology for poor scholars; ordered that Jews and Saracens should wear a distinctive costume, no Jews were to hold public office which would give them authority over Christians*
6. *The Need for Reform*
    a. *The religious and spiritual condition of a very large proportion of the clergy was deplorable. The feeling that the Church was in need of a general reformation was shared by all the more earnest Christians. It was this feeling that gave rise to many new monastic orders Camaldoli, the Carthusians, the Cistercians, and the two most important - the Franciscans and the Dominicans; The Templars and the Hospitalers and the Teutonic Knights were three military monastic orders established in Palestine*
7. *The Dominican Order*
    a. *Dominic was a monk who had been born and educated in Spain; The Dominicans adopted the name of "Preaching Friars." This was the name Innocent had used in speaking of them. This name denoted their ideals. They were to preach. In order to be able to do this they were to be friars, a name derived from the word frater, or brother*
8. *The Franciscan Order*
    a. *Francis of Assisi was born in Italy in the year 1182; The pope granted their request, and the Minorites or Friars Minor (lesser), as they called themselves in their humility, began their work. Francis insisted upon absolute poverty.*
9. *The Mendicant Orders Do Much Good*
    a. *The Friars also engaged in missionary work among the heathen, schismatic Christians in the East, heretics, and Mohammedans. They emphasized the dignity of manual labor, the duty of Christians to care for those who are in want, and the need of reform in the lives of the clergy.*
10. *A Revival of Culture Begins*
    a. *Contact with the Near East through the Crusades immensely stimulated the mental life of the people in the various countries of western Europe that revived scholarship*